

Happy Birthday, Westwood!

The vote to incorporate the Borough of Westwood based on the 1878 Act For The Formation of Borough Governments was held 125 years ago tomorrow, May 8, 1894.

The Petitioners for the election owned at least one tenth of the taxable real estate within the limits of the proposed Borough and included names such as Bogert, Brickell, Demarest, Blauvelt, and Voorhis.

The territory was carved out of the existing Township of Washington, and did not exceed in area four square miles, with a population that exceeds 200 and does not exceed five thousand.

The official name of the proposed Borough was The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Westwood (later changed in 1914 to Borough of Westwood).

The vote was held at the original Odd Fellows Hall on Broadway, which later became Voltz Hardware, from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm.

108 votes were cast by eligible residents within the proposed boundaries:

94 in favor

14 against

The first Mayor and Council meeting was held at Odd Fellows Hall on June 4, 1894, when Commissioner of Deeds Isaac Onderdonk swore in Mayor Isaac Bogert and Councilmembers W.W. Voorhis, J. Ackerson, J. Keut, G. Collignon, G. Youmans, and W. Wray.

The first act of the newly sworn Mayor and Council was to appoint the first Borough Clerk, James Demarest.